

STATE OF TENNESSEE

Office of the Attorney General



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Reply to:
Consumer Advocate and Protection Division
Post Office Box 20207
Nashville, TN 37202

March 5, 2002

Mr. David Waddell
Executive Secretary
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

**RE: Tariff of CenturyTel of Claiborne, Inc.
to Provide Rate Reductions to Offset a
Portion of the 2002 Tax Credit
Docket No.: 02-00134**

Dear Mr. Waddell:

Enclosed is an original and thirteen copies of a Complaint and Petition to Intervene by the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the State of Tennessee's Office of the Attorney General in the above-referenced matter. We request that this be filed with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. We have served copies on all parties of record. If you have any questions, kindly contact me at (615) 532-3382. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shilina B. Chatterjee
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosures
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**IN THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

IN RE: TARIFF OF CENTURYTEL OF) DOCKET NO. 02-00134
CLAIBORNE, INC. TO PROVIDE RATE)
REDUCTIONS TO OFFSET A PORTION)
OF THE 2002 TAX CREDIT)
)

COMPLAINT AND PETITION TO INTERVENE

Comes Paul G. Summers, the Attorney General & Reporter, through the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of Attorney General (hereinafter "Attorney General"), pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118 and Rule 1220-1-2-.02 of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority and respectfully complains and petitions to intervene in this case on behalf of the public interest since consumers may be affected by actions taken in this docket. The Attorney General complains and petitions as follows:

1. The Attorney General has a duty and the authority under Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118(c)(2)(A) to represent the interests of Tennessee consumers of public utilities services.
2. Additionally, under Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-6-109, the Attorney General has the duty and authority to attend to all business of the state.
3. The Attorney General is authorized by Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 65-4-118 and 65-5-210(b) to initiate, participate or intervene in proceedings to represent the public interest in

accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act ("UAPA").

4. CenturyTel of Claiborne, Inc. ("CenturyTel of Claiborne") is a telecommunications utility regulated by the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 65-4-101 and 65-4-104. Its usual address for service is P.O. Box 4065, Monroe, Louisiana 71211.

5. CenturyTel of Claiborne filed a tariff to provide reductions to offset a portion of the 2002 Tax Credit in order to comply with Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-6-222. However, CenturyTel of Claiborne has failed to divide the annual savings over an twelve period as opposed to their filed eighteen month period which results in understated reduction in rates to business customers.

6. CenturyTel of Claiborne filed a tariff to provide reductions to offset a portion of the 2002 tax credit in order to comply with Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-6-222, however, they have not complied with the statute. Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-6-222 indicates that any net tax savings are to be passed onto business customers in the form of a price reduction.

7. If the tariff allowing the rate reduction to offset a portion of the 2002 tax credit becomes effective, it would result in understated rate reductions to business customers contrary to the intent of Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-6-222.

8. CenturyTel of Claiborne has overstated the interstate access settlement reductions for the tax savings. As a result, the appropriate annual amounts for the monthly credits cannot be accurately calculated.

9. Tennessee Code Annotated § 67-6-222(5)(c) specifically states that any net tax savings "shall inure to the benefit of business customers" through an adjustment in prices in a

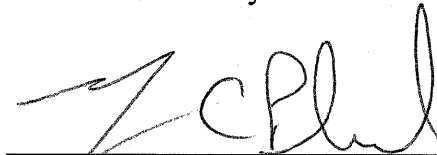
rate reduction.

10. Only by participating and/or intervening in this proceeding can the Attorney General accomplish the purposes set forth by the General Assembly thereby representing and protecting the interests of Tennessee consumers in public utility services.

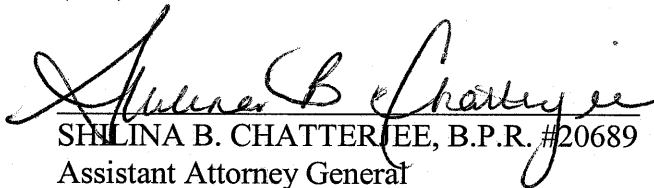
WHEREFORE, the Consumer Advocate and Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General prays that CenturyTel of Claiborne's tariff is denied or in the alternative that the Authority convene a contested case for the purpose of evaluating the issues in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL G. SUMMERS, B.P.R. # 6285
Tennessee Attorney General



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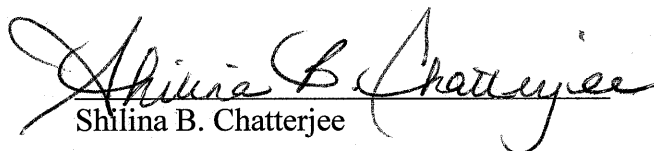


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the Complaint and Petition to Intervene was served on parties below via facsimile and U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, on March 5, 2002.

CenturyTel of Claiborne, Inc.
P.O. Box 100
507 Main Street
New Tazewell, TN 37825
Fax: (423) 626-5224


Shilina B. Chatterjee

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